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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-12 were rejected as obvious under 35 USC 103(a) in view of U.S. Pat. No 5,789,523 to George et al. The Examiner notes that George teaches a polyimide composition comprising from 70 to 99.9 weight percent of a polyimide.

The Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that claims to embodiments wherein polyimide is present have been withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species, as restricted by the Examiner in the communication of February 18, 2005. The reason for restriction was that the polyimide-containing compositions were 5-component systems rather than 4-component systems. As such, the Applicants believe that any rejection based on 5-component systems or more, such as the polyimide composition of George, is inappropriate and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In any event, the Applicants respectfully disagree that George renders the presently claimed invention obvious. George, as noted by the Examiner, teaches a composition having at least 70 weight percent of a polyimide, thereby allowing for no more than 30 weight percent of all other components of the composition. The presently claimed invention is to a composition comprising at least 50 weight percent of a thermoplastic material. The Applicants note that the presently-claimed invention requires that the total amount of non-thermoplastic materials present in the composition be no more than 50 weight percent. The reference therefore teaches a composition that is outside of the scope of the presently claimed invention. In this regard, the Examiner has failed to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Further, George teaches another embodiment wherein 20-30 weight percent of a polyimide (see column 2, line 35) is blended with 45 to 79.9 weight percent of a melt-processible polymer and from 0.1 to 30 weight percent of at least one of an inorganic sheet silicate. The Examiner further contends that carbon fiber and graphite can be included in the composition of George. The Examiner points to Example 29, which teaches away from the presently claimed invention by omitting the thermoplastic component. Example 29 also discloses a graphite composition outside of the presently claimed range, again teaching away from the claimed invention. Finally, Example 29 discloses a total filler content that is greater than 50 weight percent (i.e., 67 weight percent), once again teaching away from the presently claimed invention.

Claims 1, 7-9, 11 and 12 were rejected as obvious under 35 USC 103(a) in view of U.S. Pat. No 5,294,654 to Hellstern-Burnell et al (Hellstern).

The Applicants again respectfully remind the Examiner that claims to embodiments wherein polyimide is present have been withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species, as restricted by the Examiner in the communication of February 18, 2005. The reason for restriction was that the polyimide-containing compositions were 5-component

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systems rather than 4-component systems. As such, the Applicants believe that any rejection based on 5-component systems or more, such as the 6-component composition of Hellstern, is inappropriate and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Applicants respectfully disagree that the Claims are obvious in view of Hellstern. Hellstern does not teach a critical limitation of the present invention, namely a composition having a coefficient of friction of 0.20 or less. Such a composition is not inherent in the teachings of Hellstern because the reference teaches a number of ways that the components can be combined, and the Applicants coefficient of friction does not *necessarily* result from each combination described in Hellstern. The reference does not teach that the coefficient of friction as claimed by the Applicants can be obtained in any of the embodiments.

The Applicants also disagree that metal-coated graphite fibers are obvious alternative materials to graphite or synthetic graphite described by the Applicants. Since graphite is critical to the coefficient of friction obtained by the Applicants (see the model equation on page 12, line 18), it is unrealistic to assume that a substitution of one of the required components for a different chemical species (graphite modified by coating with metal) would have no effect on the coefficient of friction. The reference does not teach, describe, or measure the coefficient of friction for the composition described therein, and so naturally the reference does not teach how to manipulate the composition described therein to obtain the Applicants' claimed coefficient of friction.

Claims 1, and 6-12 were rejected as obvious under 35 USC 103(a) in view of U.S. Pat. No 5,844,036 to Hughes.

The Applicants respectfully disagree that the Claims are obvious in view of Hughes. Hughes does not teach a critical limitation of the present invention, namely a composition having a coefficient of friction of 0.20 or less. Such a composition is not inherent in the teachings of Hughes because the reference teaches a number of ways that the components can be combined, and the Applicants coefficient of friction does not *necessarily* result from each combination described in Hughes. The reference does not teach that the coefficient of friction as claimed by the Applicants can be obtained in any of the embodiments.

The reference does not teach the combinations in the same proportions as the Applicants' claimed invention. The reference describes combining the components in terms of *volume percent not weight percent*. One of ordinary skill in the art would not know how to combine the components in a manner to obtain the Applicants' claimed invention without resort to using the Applicants' own disclosure as a guide.

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The Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of all pending claims be withdrawn, and that instead the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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